



3731
JFW

In re: application entitled **Laparoscopic Lifter Apparatus and Method**

Inventor: Gregory R. Pittman

Group Art No. 3731

Application Serial No. **10/075,948**

Today's Date: 05/20/2004

Examiner: (Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho

Application Date: 02/15/2002

Attorney Docket No. 30,260

To: Examiner ((Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho

Response to Examiner's Detailed First Action: Mailed 04/30/2004

Claim Objections-Informalities

Claim 1 is amended as follows:

1. Line 4, after "housing" a comma is added.
2. Line 8, "a central knob" is changed to "a central hollow knob".
3. Lines 10-11, "said flexible ... lifter apparatus" is deleted.
4. Lines 16-17, "to comprise...apparatus" is deleted.
5. Line 17. A period is added after "means".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

Regarding examiner's rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hasson (4,944,741), the following table shows the substantial structural differences in the Hasson invention as compared to the present invention:

	Hasson	Present Invention
Flexible arms:	First and second jaws 16, 18. Avoids fixed configuration.	Band like flexible arms 18a, 18b. Width three to four times greater than depth. Fixed